

Message Text

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SUBJECT:MESSAGE TO SENATOR SALII AND REPRESENTATIVE SILK

- FROM AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

FOR STATUS LNO FOR DELIVERY TO SENATOR LAZARUS SALII AND
REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK FROM AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS

DEAR LAZARUS AND EKPAP:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE TO MY INVITATION THAT WE
MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO IN EARLY JANUARY TO CARRY ON OUR
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. I AM SORRY THAT THE DATE SUGGESTED
PROVED INCONVENIENT FOR YOU BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR
DESIRE NOT TO BE AWAY FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY ON THE EVE OF
THE CONVENING OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. AT THE SAME
TIME, I APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MY SITUATION AND MY
INABILITY TO BE AWAY FROM WASHINGTON WHILE THE MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE
SENATE. I DO, HOWEVER, SHARE WITH YOU THE HOPE THAT A
MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME AND PLACE CAN BE SET SOON FOR OUR
NEXT INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MICRONESIAN FUTURE
POLITICAL STATUS QUESTION. WHILE IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS
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TIME WHEN THE SENATE WILL COMPLETE ITS DELIBERATION AND

ACTION ON THE MARIANAS COVENANT, I AM HOPING THAT THE FINAL VOTE WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY. AS SOON AS THE TIMING OF THIS ACTION BECOMES CLEAR, I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT SOME SUGGESTED DATES FOR OUR NEXT EXPLORATORY MEETING.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REASSESSING U.S. POSITIONS AND OBJECTIVES AS SET FORTH IN THE OCTOBER 1974 AD REFERENDUM DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR CONVERSATION LAST MAY, THE COM POSITION TAKEN AT THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL IN JUNE, AND THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD SEEM TO BEAR ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS QUESTION. WE ARE EXAMINING WHETHER THE BASIC NATURE OF THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP ENVISAGED AS A RESULT OF OUR UNDERSTANDINGS, IN PRINCIPLE, REACHED AT HANA AND KOROR IS STILL VALID AND, AS PART OF REVIEW, WE ARE NATURALLY RECONSIDERING THE U.S. COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES.

CERTAINLY THE NEW MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION, IF APPROVED, WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, AND AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN ADVOCATING THE CALLING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SINCE 1972, I WAS GREATLY AND FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONVENTION WAS CONDUCTED AND THE PROCESSES OF GIVE AND TAKE--OF ACCOMMODATION AND COMPROMISE--WHICH RESULTED IN THE DRAFT WHICH WAS FINALLY SIGNED. I HAD OCCASION TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DURING MY TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE IN NOVEMBER AND, ON THE EVENING OF THE DAY THE CONSTITUTION WAS SIGNED, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, TO SENATOR MANGEFEL AND TO KALEB UDUI WITH WHOM I WAS HAVING DINNER.

I HAVE SINCE NOTED THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL

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CONVENTION MET IN EARLY DECEMBER TO REVIEW THE CONSTITUTION AND THE COMPACT AND THE IMPACT OF THE FORMER ON THE LATTER. AS WE PREPARE FOR OUR NEXT INFORMAL MEETING AND FOR SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL TALKS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD SHARE WITH US INFORMALLY THE RESULTS OF YOUR REVIEW AND IDENTIFY THOSE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC AREAS WHICH THE JOINT COMMITTEE WISHES TO SEE RENEGOTIATED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CITATIONS OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND DIFFERENCES

SO THAT WE CAN CONCENTRATE OUR ATTENTION ON THE MOST

IMPORTANT ISSUES AS YOU NOW SEE THEM. YOUR RESPONSE
COULD BE EITHER IN WRITING OR IF YOU WOULD PREFER IN
INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS ON SAIPAN WITH MY STATUS LIAISON
OFFICER. IN THIS MANNER AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE COULD BE
CARRIED ON PRIOR TO OUR NEXT MEETING WHICH WOULD BE
HELPFUL TO BOTH OF US AS WE PREPARE FOR THE ISSUES AND
QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED. THE AGENDA MIGHT INCLUDE IN
ADDITION TO DIRECT STATUS MATTERS SOME OF THE ITEMS
SUGGESTED IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF LAST FEBRUARY THE 26TH,
SUCH AS TRANSITION, THE CAPITAL RELOCATION QUESTION,
AND A TERMINATION TIMETABLE.

IN CLOSING, I WISH TO REASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT'S
PURPOSE REMAINS CONSTANT AND THAT IT SHARES WITH YOU A
DESIRE FOR FURTHER EARLY PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL WHICH
WE BOTH HAVE IN COMMON--NAMELY SELF-DETERMINATION AND
SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR FREELY
EXPRESSED DESIRES.

I HOPE YOU WILL CONVEY THIS THOUGHT TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ALONG WITH MY WARMEST REGARDS AND
BEST WISHES FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONGRESSIONAL SESSION.

SINCERELY YOURS, F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTI-
ATIONS.

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